

Upper Captiva Fire & Rescue District
4511 Hodgepodge Lane
P.O. Box 322 Pineland, FL 33945



Serving the Community with Pride
Phone: 239-872-2263
Email: info@uppercaptivafire.org

FIRST BUDGET HEARING MINUTES

Saturday September 7, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Location: Fire Station

COMMISSIONERS & STAFF PRESENT: Duncan Rosen, Van Hammond, Bill Fry, MJ Yafchak, Chief Jesse Cottrell
Via Zoom: Mike Filipczak

ISLANDERS/GUESTS PRESENT:

Room:

Chaplin David Bolme
Teresa Bolme
Ed Dotts

Via ZOOM:

Zeke McDonald,
Christal McClary
Rich Gross
Steve Holt

MINUTES:

- 1) **Call to Order:** Commissioner Rosen
- 2) **Review Budget:** Chief Cottrell/Commissioner Fry
Commissioner Fry referred to the budget presentation at:
<https://uppercaptivafire.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/FY25-September-Proposed-Budget.pdf>

Discussion about minimum reserve. Minimum is ~200K required to bridge department during Ad Valorem Tax Collection period.

Current Reserve is ~\$640K.

Conclusion: Even with the elimination of the Special Assessment funds, the department is running with over \$400K in “excess” reserves. These funds are required to offset the department expenses that exceed Tax Revenues for the next 2-3 years. It is estimated that that due to property tax valuation increases (3% for homestead, 10% for non-homestead) combined with new building and valuations reset when sold, will increase tax revenue to the department exceeding expenses by 2027 or 2028.

Board voting requirements at different mill rates

| <u>Mill Rate</u> | <u>Board vote requirements</u> |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3.75 | Unanimous (Vote 5-0) |
| 3.624 | 2/3 Majority (Vote 4-1) |
| 3.2922 | Simple Majority (Vote 3-2) |

- 3) **Resolution No. 2024-010** – A Resolution of the upper Captiva fire protection and rescue service district of Lee County, Florida, adopting the tentative millage rate levy of AD Valorem Taxes for the said district for fiscal year 2024-2025; providing for an effective date.

Commissioner Fry indicated that he would not vote for the maximum Mill rate of 3.75 (which required a Unanimous vote).

The board voted to pass the resolution and set the preliminary tax rate at 3.6214. Roll call vote: (4-1)

Rosen: Yes
Filipczak: No
Hammond: Yes
Fry: Yes
Yafchak: Yes

Note: Millage rate can go DOWN at Second(final) budget hearing, but NOT UP.

- 4) **Resolution No. 2024-11** – A resolution of the upper Captiva fire protection and rescue service district of Lee County, Florida, Adopting the tentative budget for fiscal year 2024-2025; providing for an effective date.

Board voted to set the preliminary tax rate at 3.6214

The Board approved the preliminary budget resolution (\$1,798,548).

Roll call vote: (4-1)

Rosen: Yes
Filipczak: No
Hammond: Yes
Fry: Yes
Yafchak: Yes

5) **Public input on agenda items:**

None

6) **Second budget meeting date:**

Sunday, September 21, 2024, 10:00 at Fire House

7) **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at xxx.